We cannot conclude without congratulating the Southern Convention, just adjourned, on the fact that this Manual of Mr. Eliot's will supply one of the books which it resolved to have supplied by domestic manufacture. We beg to recommend it to our Southern brethren, not as a model of style, which we cannot conscientiously do, but as a perfectly safe text-book to be put into the hands of the ingenuous youth of the Slaveland.

Whatever else may be denied or caviled at, it carnet be doubted that the principle or policy of Free Rum is now having fair and free scope in our City and State. If this is indeed the policy best calculated to guard against and lessen the evils of Intemperance, then the last year must have witnessed great strides toward the complete suppression, of at least the immoderate and pernicious use, of Intexicating Liquors. Yet all who do not willfully and obstinately shut their eyes must realize that Tippling and Drunkenness were never before so rife and progressive in this region as no v-that grog-shops are like the frogs of Egypt, and dissipation fearfully prevalent. We believe there are not less than Ten Thousand dram-shops in this city, with at least Five Thousand more in its adjuncts and suburbs. Though the closing year has been one of general prosperity, yet our Alms-House was never fuller, and our charitable establishments are crowded-mainly with the victims of intemperance -either their own or that of others. The following table will show what have been the aggregates of serious crimes within our city during 1856:

Serious Assaults, 225; of which 213 were committee by persons decidedly under the influence of Liquor. Assaults with intent to kill, 59; of which 51 were im pelled by Liquor. Murders, 21; of which 18 were impelled by Liquor.

These are appalling facts, and the list might be fearfully extended. Destitution, wretchedness, fel ony, suicide-such are the results by wholesale of the fearful and fearfully increasing passion for intoxicating liquors.

We of the old Temperance Guard must renew the agitation which has been measurably relaxed since the great discouragement to which the decision of the Court of Appeals last Winter subjected us. We must put forth once more our utmost efforts to save our fellow-beings from the Maelstrom into which so many of them are blindly beedlessly plunging. Let us renew that "Moral Sussion," which our adversaries praise so highly but never practice; and let us prepare to back it with Legal Sussion whenever public sentiment shall have been ripened for that decisive step. And in order to obviate and preclude all judicial cavils, let us begin at the beginning, by asking our present Legislature to initiate a Constitutional Amendment which shall leave no doubt of the validity of such Prohibitory Laws as may be passed hereafter. We suggest this form of amendment, but shall gladly see it improved:

"Act III. § 18. The Legislature shall have power pass laws regulating, restraining or prohibiting the Manufacture of and Traffic in Intoxicating Liquors, and to that end may confiscate all Liquors manufac-tured, or sold, or held for sale, in violation of its acts.

The ventilation accorded to the difference be tween Messrs. Mesgher and Raymond has awakened a fresh interest in that which dimly underlies it-the question, namely: "Did the escape of Messrs. Mitchel and Meagher respectively from duress in Australia involve a breach of parole on their part?" As the facts are but imperfectly understood, and as imputations of dishonor have been freely and flippantly put forth against those gentlemen, we deem it but an act of justice to quote, in their vindication, the casual remarks, at a public dinner given him in Melbourne, just after his own liberation, by William Smith O'Brien, a gentleman of well-proved integrity and spotless honor. In reference to this subject, Mr. O'Brien said:

of well-proved integrity and spotless honor. In reference to this subject, Mr. O'Brien said:

"The mode of his emancipation from that condition suggested to him some remarks. He had been complimented in the House of Commons at the expense of his fellow-prisoners who had escaped to 'America. He trusted there were reporters now present who would convey to the world that he accepted no such compliment [Cheers]. With some of Mr. Mitchel's sentiment's he could not agree, and he altogether differed with him on the subject of negro Slavery; but this be would say, that Mr. Mitchel had not violated his parole. Previously to his escape, Mr. Mitchel had convelted him; and he (Mr. O'Brien) had then given it as his opinion that, if Mr. Mitchel adopted the course which he ultimately did adopt, there would be nothing dishonorable in it. If, therefore, Mr. Mitchel were guilty of having sacrificed his honor, he (Mr. O'Brien) was equally guilty. The treatment which he had received at Port Arthur and elsewhere was sufficient to destroy health; and it might be a question for casuists whether, under these circumstances, a prisoner was bound by his parole. Neverthelees, he and his fellow-prisoners had agreed to be bound by that parole—but not beyond the letter of the parole [Hear, hear]. Mr. O'Brien) then briefly narrated Mr. Mitchel's escape, the particulars of which have been already before the public. There had also been some queetion regarding the propriety of Mr. Meagher's escape. He (Mr. O'Brien) offered no opinion on that subject; he had not been consulted on the matter. But this he knew, that Thomas Francis Meagher would never have escaped in any way that he did not deem henorable. So jesions was Mr. Meagher of his honor that, rather than suffer any imputation on it, he had actually taken his passage in a vessel bound from California to Australia, in order to deliver himself again into the hands of the British Government; and he was restrained from his purpose only by the remonstrances of his friends, who represented its Qui

Misfortunes, they say, never come single; and in the case of Mr. George W. Clarke, late an Indian Agent in Kansas, and credited by fame with the murder of Barber during the first siege of Lawrence, this saying seems to come true. We noticed a little while ago that, in spite of his eminent services to the cause of Border-Ruffianism, the President had removed him from his Indian Agency. It appears by the advertising columns of a late number of The Lecompton Union that he has not merely lost his office, but what perhaps comes still nearer home to him, "his negro woman Judy," "good "ccok, washerwoman, and excellent house-ser-"vant." As, possibly, Judy may apply for employment somewhere within the range of our circulation, we give her the benefit of the excellent character from her late master contained in the

subjoined advertisement: "FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD .- Left my premises, near Lecompton, K. T., on Toesday, the 17th day of November last, my negro woman JUDY. She is about 35 years old, 5 feet 5 or 4 inches bigh, and corpulent, weighing about 225 pounds. She is rery bisck, with several teeth out in front, and speaks intelligently and plausibly. She has been seen at several houses in

the reighborhood, and when last men was traveling toward. Lawrence. She is a good Cook and Washerwoman, and in other respects an excellent House-Servant. She is no disable lunking in or shout Lawrence, if she has not siready secured a passage on the underground railway to Chicago.

"I will give \$25 for information that will lead to her apprince of the control of t

" December 2, 1856.—n27-5t." Whatever may be the views of Mr. George W. Clarke on the Kansas question, it would seem that at least one member of his family or of his late family is bent upon making that Territory a Free State. But though he loses in one direction he may gain in another. This double loss of his office and his Judy ought to go far to secure him the clerkship of the Bogus Kansas Legislature now shortly about to meet-a berth for which we see he is an

applicant.

We mentioned the other day that the law respecting colored seamen was under discussion in the Legislature of South Carolina, and we gave a synopsis of a revised statute on that subject which had already passed the Lower House. The same bili has now passed the Senate, and is now we suppose the law of the land. By the new law masters of vessels having colored persons on board are required to give bonds that such persons shall not, during the vessel's stay, go on shore or otherwise violate the law of the State. This is, no doubt, an improvement upon the old law under which such persons were committed to jail subject to a liability to be sold to pay the jail fees; but the constitutional right of South Carolina to pass even the new law may be questioned, and should any attempt ever be made to enforce one of the bonds required by it, the question of the constitutionality may yet come before the Supreme Court of the United States.

LATEST NEWS. RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispetch to The N. Y. Tribune.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1856.

A party of South Carolinians from Kansas passed through here to-day, returning home, having abandened that Territory as presenting no hopes to their political enterprise or personal fortunes. They and others from the South relinquish the experiment as desperate, and complain of the limited material aid furnished by their own section.

The Tariff bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means at the last session and set down for Tuesday pext, as the special order, will probably be superseded by prior business and deferred to a more distant day. Any general legislation on this subject is doubtful at the present session, though special objects may be secured by combinations or fortuitous causes.

The ceremony of receiving a formal speech from the oldest member of the Foreign Legations will not be observed on New-Year's day at the White House. The Embassies will be welcomed as heretofore an hour before the ordinary reception, but without any rigid observance of etiquette. M. Sartiges now ranks as the oldest recognized minister; and this omission will be mutually acceptable to him and to the President.

Mr. Washburne of Illinois made a personal explanation in the House to-day, which disconcerted the Democracy considerably. On the 9th inst. he stated that the Democratic papers of his State suppressed the resolution of the Cincinnsti Convention approving President Pierce's Administration. This fact was immediately disputed by Messra. Allen and Marshall, and also by papers in Illinois. He produced this morning the State Register, Galena Courier and Jacksonville Sentinel, showing the suppression, and the subsequent admissions. Mesers. Allen and Marshall receded from their denial, thus crushing out all contradiction.

The Senate met, received a few petitions, and shut up shop till Friday, with the intention of then adjourning till Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. Hamlin goes immediately to Maine to assume the Gubernatorial office, and the hope is entertained here that he will be promptly returned to his own vacancy in the Senate.

SOULE AT HOME-TWENTY NEGROES HUNG.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856.

Pierre Soulé has returned to New-Orleans, and s looked upon as a political bankrupt. Indeed, no one now pays him the least regard. Among the more wealthy classes in that city, there are some conservative demonstrations against the fire-eaters who speak through The Delta.

I have reliable information from New-Orleans that, within a few days, there have been serious troubles among the slaves in Louisiana, and that as many as twenty negroes have been hung; but the newspapers carefully refrein from any mention of

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Theeday, Dec. 30, 1856.

It appears from a communication to-day, transmitted to the Senate by the Secretary of the Interior, in reply to a resolution of inquiry, that the Department has endeavored to have the entire land reservation in Karsse, heretofore set apart for the New-York Indians, maintained and guarded against encroachments by white settlers, until it shall be determined, either by legislation or treaty, what rights, if any, therein remain to such of those Indians as have not removed west of the Mississippi (having an unlimited right to remain in New-York), and in what manner the interests of those who emigrated shall be secured or definitely settled.

The Indian Department has received information that about 208,000 acres of the Delaware Trust lands have been recently sold, yielding \$450,000. Upward of 300,000 acres, including Leavenworth City, belonging to the Delaware Indians, are yet to be sold.

One hundred thousand acres opposite St. Joseph. Mo., and the same number on the Osage River, the former held for the Iowas and the latter for the Iowas, in trust—choice tracts—will on the opening of Spring be brought into market, and before any United States lands shall be opened for sale in Kausas.

XXXIVTH CONGRESS. SECOND SESSION.

SENATE... WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1866.
On motion of Mr. WELLER, the Committee on Territories was directed to inquire into the expediency of providing means for establishing and settling the boundary between California and Utah.

Ten thousand extra copies of the Report of the Superinterdent on the Coast Survey were then ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. WELLER, a resolution was adopted calling on the President to communicate a

On motion of Mr. WELLER, a resolution was adopted calling on the President to communicate a statement of all payments and allowances which have been made, and of all claims disallowed General Scott, from the date he joined the army in Mexico to Dec. 1, 1856, together with any correspondence on the subject. Adjuorned till Friday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed the consideration of the President's Annual Message.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Ill.) rose to make good his Mr. WASHBURNE (III.) rose to make good his former assertion that the Democratic papers of that State for the most part did not publish the resolution of the Cincinnati Convention indorsing Gen. Pierce a Administration, thus by this omission repudlating it. The Galena Courier and The Springfield Register had admitted that they did not publish the resolution.

Mesers. MARSHALL and HARRIS (III) book issue, decrying that the Democracy of that Siste avoided the doctrines and positions presented by the Cincianati Convention. The resolution indorsing President Pierce

was not part of the platform. The Democratic State Convention passed one of similar import, which was published in all the Illinois Democratic papers. The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill being

neer consideration, hir. HAVEN moved to strike out the appropriation for salaries to twenty-five consular pupils; and ask whether we are to have a consular school in which

Mr. PENNINGTON explained that consular pupils were merely Clerks to Consuls whose salaries were in sufficient to enable them to employ such assistants. They would, however, be trained to the business of

Mr. QUITMAN concurred with Mr. Havon, He had always thought it should be honset diplomacy, and not that of deceit, which exists in European countries. Further debate ensued, involving the propriety of paying comular pupils, when the appropriation for their salaries was stricken out, and the bill passed. Accounted till bridgen

THE BROADWAY RAILROAD CASE IN THE COURT OF APPEALS.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856. It is stated that the Court of Appeals deny the right to construct a radroad in Broadway, but graat the applicants a new trial on the ground that the parties ask ing an injunction do not appear by the pleadings to be property owners on Broadway.

FIFTEEN NEGROES KILLED! AUGUSTA, Ga., Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1856. We find the following intelligence in The Alabama

Advertiser and Gazette : In York District, South Carolina, to-day, the slave

excitement continues. Powder and muskets have been found in possession of the slaves.

A dispatch from Columbia says fifteen negroes have A dispatch from Columbia says niteen negroes have been killed by their owners in Perry. Escapes of slaves are numerous. The whites in all directions are

DEATH OF THE HON. FRANCIS C. GRAY. Boston, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856, The Hon. Francis C. Gray, a distinguished citizen of Boston, died at his residence in Park street last

evening.

Mr. Tenney, the murdered Warden of the State
Prison, was a native of Lebanon, N. H. He was a
powerfully-built man, six feet in hight, and was thirtytwo years of age.

He was married three weeks since, and was absent

ne was married three weeks since, and was absent on a bridal tour, when Walker the Deputy Warden, was murdered. Charles L. Deca'ur, the murderer, was serving out three years' imprisonment for aggrava'ed assault on a policeman. He is 20 years old and a native of Maine. He killed Mr. Tenney with one blow by a knife, in the neck. There is no known cause for the act. The affair causes great excitement in the community.

CONVENTION OF NORTH AMERICANS.

STRACUSE, December 30, 1856.
The meeting of "North Americans" called for to day, at Corinthian Hall, was held at the St. Charles day, at Corinthian Hall, was held at the St. Charles Hotel. The attendance was small. Ambrose Stevens presided, and announced that it was strictly a business Convention, to decide upon a plan of action for the future. The expression of the meeting was almost unanimous in favor of a reunion with the regular American party, on the ground that the leaders of the Republican party of this State are hostile to American reform, while the American party expressed its determination to occupy the position laid down in the Binghampton platform. The afternoon session was spent in a discussion as to the practical method of forming areunion, and eventually a Committee was appointed with authority to confer with any similar Committee that might be appointed by the Americans, and to call a future Convention of the North Americans if deemed expedient.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT Washington, Tuesday, Tec 30, 1856, No. 224: James Ross et al. agt. Murray Hoffman.-Error to the Circuit Court for the Western District of Error to the Circuit Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. On the motion of counsel for the defendant, the case was dismissed, with casts.

Nos. 225 and 226: Christoval Morel agt. The Orleans Draining Company, and Nicholas Fitzsimmons agt. The Same.—On motion of counsel for the defendants, both cases were dismissed, with costs.

No. 33: Argument concluded for plaintiffs.

No. 27: Terrance Cousin agt Evarise Blane's exceutors et al.—Argued by Mr. Janin for plaintiff, and by Mr. Benjamin for defendants.

No. 34: Wm. A. Shaffer agt. Jas. A. Scuddar.—Argued by Mr. Benjamin for plaintiff, and by Mr. Taylor for defendant.

MURDER CASES.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856.

In the case of McCann, who is sentenced to be bung on the 18th of January for the murder of his wife, a bill of exceptions has been served by the prisoner's counsel, and is now being settled by Judge Gould, after which a stay of execution will be granted in order to hear the argument to zet aside the verdict.

A motion was made to-day before Judge Gould for a new trial in the case of John Cummings, convicted of the murder of Frederick Stumpf. The motion was deried, but will be carried to the General Term for further argument.

LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION.
WILLIAMSFORT, Pa., Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856.
On Saturday last a locomotive attached to a train of cars on the New-York and Eric Railroad exploded at Addison instantly killing the fireman and demolishing the engine. The engineer and passengers escaped uninjured. The fireman, whole name is S. W. Atwood, wided at Owaco, N. Y. resided at Oweco, N. Y.

NEGRO EXCITEMENT AT NASHVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856.
A great excitement exists at Nashville, Tenn., in ref. A great excitement eners at Nasivine, June, in re-erence to rumored rising among the negro slaves. The Corporation met and passed an ordinance requiring the military to hold themselves in readiness for any emergency, and appointing a large number of addi-tional watchmer.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE AT BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, Thesday, Dec. 30, 1856.

The shoe store of Simon Bass, in Broadway, was damaged by fire early this morning. Two apprentice boys who slept over the store were smothered to death.

MISSOURI LEGISLATURE. St. Louis, Tuesday, December 30, 1856. Both branches of the Missouri Legislature effected a preliminary organization yesterday.

BOSTON WEEKLY BANK STATEMENT.

Bostos, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856.
The following are the footings of our Bank statemen

PROGRESS OF RAILROADS.

The annual Supplement to Dinamore's American Railroad Guide will contain the following interesting exhibit of the progress of railroads in this country; SUMMARY BY STATES.

Mileage Mileage Increase

Jan 1, 1858 Jan 1, 1857. last year.

	States.	JAR 1, 1000	of the same of	30.6
	Maine	422 2	442.2	0.0
ì	M.m. Wammahira	645.5	645.5	0.0
			515.6	73.5
ì	Massachusetta	*****	1,285 6	
g	Rhede Island		85.4	7.4
ì	Coppecticut	598.2	6(4).9	- 41
Ì	Nam Vork		2,700.9	32.1
ı	Wass Investor	440.0	472.3	24.0
j	Pennsylvania		2,407.1	368.5
			120.0	36 (
١	Maryland	371.8	307.1	26.0
q	Virgitia	1.252.1	1.479.7	327.6
į	North Carolina	485.0	612.0	129.0
Ì	North Caronna	677.4	706 4	29.0
	South Carclins		1.062.0	63.5
ı	Georgia	0.0	26.6	26.1
ı	Florida		484.5	167.1
١	Alabama		410.0	158
ı	Mississippi	201 5	283.5	421
ı	Louisiana	6.0	57.0	51.
ı			508.6	142.1
ĺ	Tennesse	147.0	376.7	105.1
J			2,869.7	223.6
ı			1,806.8	361
ı	Indiana seconsesses		600.5	139.0
ı			2.524.6	389
ı	Tilliania	********	629.9	350.6
á	Wisconsin		253.0	165.6
J	lows		189 7	45.
1	Missouri	10000	22.5	0.1
ì	California	22.5	21.3	
1			24,476.4	3.407.6
y	Great total	21,769.4		1000000
i	PROGRES	IS OF RAIL	ROADS	
i				Miles
	Years. 1828	9:1845		4.174
	1829			4,21
	1836	41 1845		same 631
	1800	24 1848		***** 4.571
	1831	151 1247		· · · · 5,3%

DECEMBER XXXI. (For The Tribune !

THERE goes an old Gaffer over the hill-Thieving, and old, and gray; He walks the green world his wallet to fill, And carries good spoil sway.

Into his bag be popped a king—
After him went a friar:
Many a lady with gay gold ring,
Many a knight and squire. He carried my true-love far away-He stole the dog at my door; The vile old Gaffer, this ving and gray. He'll never come back any more.

My little darling, white and fair, Sat in the door and spun; He caught her fast by her silken hair, Before the child could run.

He stole the florins out of my purse-The sunshine out of mine eyes; He stole my roses; and what is worse, The gray old Gaffer told lies. He promised fair when he came by,

And laughed as he slipped away, For every promise turned out a lie; But his tale is over to-day. Good bye, old Gaffer ! you'll come no more. You've done your worst for me; The next gray robber will pass my door-

There's nothing to steal or see THE VOTE OF WISCONSIN.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sin: I observe by this morning's Tennune that you have been misinformed as to the Electoral vote of Wisconsin. It is true that the Electors were pre vented, by stress of weather, from reaching the Capital of the State on the 4th inst .- a snow storm of unprecedented severity baving prevailed on the 2d and 3d inst., burying the State under several feet of snow, and blocking up both railroads and common roads for several days. By great effort, however, the Electors reached Madison early on the 5th inst.; organized, voted for President and Vice President; made the returns required by law, and selected a Messenger to carry the record of their vote to Washington. They never doubted for a moment that this vote was legally cast, and would be duly counted. New-York, Dec. 30, 1856

THE EXHIBITION OF PALMER'S SCULP. TURES

Genius reveals itself intuitively. It bursts from the recesses of the mind, and rushes to a union with external nature. The harmonious blending of this impulse with the objective world turns inspiration into reality, and art is born. The Paimer Marbles are such genuine revelations of genius. The American public is acquainted with the history of this artist, who at the outset of his career a mechanic-a joiner. Palmer has not studied classic models, but nature, in order to express his feelings in the marble mimicry of life.

The sculptures on exhibition in this city give a wide range of single productions, contradistinguished from groups. These include full-length figures, medallions, and half and whole busts. All of them reveal the cardinal craving of the artist to give utterance to his ideal impressions; but they display, likewise, a close study of the human body. THE INDIAN GIRL; Or, THE DAWN OF CHRISTIANITY, unites with the characteristics of a child of the forest a gentle abandon ment to the soft religious light revealed to her. The play of the muscles in the back or torso of the statue show that the artist has devoted much time to this important part of his work. RESIGNATION and SPRING, two statues, are poetized realities. One feels that each is a combination of imitation and invention, as are unquestionably the other marbles. Sappeo, THE SLEEPING PERI, MONRING, EVENING, THE DREAM, INNOCENCE-in all these the artist has reproduced the various emotions of pure youth and woman hood. Sappho's great, immeasurable sufferings of heart and soul are expressed in the agony of her beauhful features. The great drawback which every sculptor undergoes, in being unable to give the ex pression of the eye, Palmer has sought to overcome most irgeniously by his finished elaboration of the various curves of the cyclid, modulated to the impressions required for the different heads.

Though SAPPRO, THE PERI, and some of the me dallions reproduced the Greek or inself type, it is easy to perceive that Palmer's ideal of beauty is not limited to that. Therein he proves himself true to nature, and to possess the flame of genius-to be an individuality and not a coerced imitator. The true scope of art is to be a free and inspired interpreter of Nature -of the living model. The expression of the sentimental, of the beautiful, of the vivid, soft, deep, or intense emotions of soul, does not necessarily require to be encompassed by what is called perfectly classical features, or what Ariosto calls down-flowing ones. Na ture revelling in diversity of traits will exhibt herself charmingly in the so-called incorrect facial outlines. We are not aware if Palmer put himself deliberately to the solution of this problem, in order to show that the expression of emotions can be enhanced even by a deviation from the absolutely classical type, or whether he followed unconsciously his own promptings; but

the successful schievement is before us. Palmer's works bear the aroms of the country, the people, the century. They are American, and form an epoch in our art. As such they should inspire general popular interest. But at repeated visits to the Gallery we have been dismayed in finding scarce a visit which leads us to infer that the public are either in lifferent or ignorant as to its existence. How differently would such productions be received in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, or in any Italian cities. How all classes there would crowd to hail the rising genius.

Alongside the building which contains these marbles is an elegant foreign jewelry shop, and there the beauty, fashion and distinction of New-York, press in crowds and make purchases, while their splendid equipages blaze in the streets and sidewalks.

THE NEW STEAM BATTERY.

The great iron war steamer, which is now in construction at Hoboken for the Government, being an object of much interest, we have been at considerable pains to collect reliable information in regard to her, principally through the medium of our Washington correspondents; and, as it differs very materially from the statements recently made in various quarters, we give it to our readers.

In 1842, the late Mr. Robert L. Stevens first broached to the Government the subject of harbor defense by means of steam batteries of iron, which should be shot and shell proof, and in 1843 Congress, by a special set, directed that the Navy Department should contract with him for such a vessel. In 1844, a centract was accordingly made with him by Mr. Mason, then Secretary of the Navy, under which Mr. Stevens commenced collecting materials and con-structing the dry dock in which the vessel is now Mr. Stevens bound himself by this contract to con-

struct a war steamer suitable for use in the waters of New-York, from Sandy Hook upward. It was stipulated that she should be built of iron, that she should be shot and shell proof against ordnance then in use on ships-of-war, that she should have four engines, and be propelled by a submerged propeller, which should give great speed.

Her dimensions were to be not less than two hundred and fifty feet in length and forty feet beam, and her cost, complete, including an armament of not less than six heavy guns, was not to exceed five hundred and eighty-seven thousand dollars.

For the faithful fulfillment of this contract, the Government required and received from Mr. Stevens ample security, as it was further stipulated that payments should be made to him as he proceeded with the construction, up to \$500,000, and that the remaining \$87,000 should be paid when the ship was completed and received. Mr. Stevens encountered many

difficulties in making his preliminary arrangements. and it was not until July, 1854, that the act struction was commenced. Meantime he had deoided, after more fully studying the subject, to increase the dimensions of the vessel very much. Instead of a length of two hundred and fifty feet, she is nearly four bundred and twenty feet long, and he other dimensions are increased in proportion. Instead of four engines and one propeller, she has eight ongiees and two propellers. Her boilers are ten in num ber, of large dimensions, and her power will be nearly equal to nine thousand horses. The vessel is in a very advarced state, and the machinery and boilers and dependencies are all complete and in place. Owing to her greatly increased dimensions beyond those stips lated for in the contract, the cost will be much in cressed, but how much we are not able to state. The payments by the Government cannot exceed \$500,000 until the vessel is delivered and received, unless Congress should make further appropriations.

Since the construction was commenced, the original projector, Mr. Robert L. Stevens, has died, but it is stated that his brother, E. A. Stevens, esq , is determined to complete the vessel-that a good force is now at work, under the same general supervision which has been employed from the commencement. Mr. S. is prosecuting the work from his own resources, we are old, in the fullest confidence that the ship will in all respects meet public expectation, and that Congress will not suffer him to sustain any loss,

ANOTHER AFFAIR OF HONOR.

Alex. H. Stephens, M. C. from Georgia, about the middle of November last called on Mr. B. H. Hill for an explanation of something he said de rebus nihili, in speech made by him some time since at Augusta, to which Mr. Hill returned an answer which did not prove entirely satisfactory, whereupon the following correspondence ensued between the parties:

Washisotos, D. C., Nov. 29, 1856.

Sir: Your letter, bearing date the 24th instant mailed or post-marked the 25th, did not reach Crawfordville, where it was directed, until after I left for this place, which I regret. It has just come to hand here, where it has been forwarded, and is far from being such as I had reason to expect. So far from this, it has in it much, both in tone and matter, personally offensive in itself. Your answer, therefore, to my last two inquiries taken in connection with the whole of

your response to my first letter of the 17th instant, by no means constitute such an explanation of the offen sive character of the report, which has been communicated to use, of your remarks at Thomson and Augusta as I can receive with a due regard to my honor as a gentleman and my integrity as a man.

I do not deem it proper on this occasion to join issue with you in any statement of facts, in your account of what either you or I said at Lexington. You hold yourself responsible, I suppose, for your own version of both aid for the version as given by yourself, as well as its tone and manner, I ask of you that saidsfacton which is usual between gentlemen in such cases.

My friend, the Hon. Thomas W. Thomas, who will hand you this, is authorized to make all necetary arangements, allowing such terms only as my present distance may require.

Respectfully,

To B. H. Hill, esq. Le Grange, Ga. A. H. STEPHENS.

To B. H. Hitt., esq., its orange, Ga. A. H. STEPHENS.

La Grange, Ga., Dec. 6, 1856.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th of November was harded to me a few moments since by the Hon. Thos. W. Thomas.

You say that my letter of the 24th ult. "Its in it "much, both in tone and matter, personally offensive in "itself," Ac., and without specifying anything which you designate as offensive, you proceed to ask of me "that satisfaction which is usual between gentlemen in such cases."

in such cases.

It might be some satisfaction for you to shoot at me, hough I should entertain no great fear of being hit,

though I should entertain no great fear of being hit, but candor requires me to say, with my present feelings. I could not deliberately shoot at you, and for many reasons—a few only of which I will now give:

First: I might possibly kill you, and though you may not consider your life valuable, yet to take it would be a great annoyance to me afterward. The ceaseless accusations of my conscience that I was a murderer would be the bane of my future happiness.

Second: I am not conscious of having given you any just ground of offense. In my letter of 24th, I anthorized you to construe my remarks by the meaning of your own charge, to which the remarks were intended as a reply. If the reply, then, was offensive, it only proves that you so intended your charge, and in that view you are entitled to no satisfaction, and I am satisfied with the reply. Further than this I distinctly disclaimed any personal allusion or unkindness, and notwithstancing your "belligerent message," feel none now.

Third: If the invitation to mortal combat is in.

one now.

Third. If the invitation to mortal combat is in-Third: If the invitation to mortal combat is in-tended as a mere formal occasion to exchange a few-harmlers shots and then have an adjustment, I can only say I never engage in farces nor make feigned issues. If I could be made conscious that I had done you injustice, I should deem it a duty to repair it, and should not wait first to be shot at. If you did me injustice, I met the occasion with the remedy, and it does seem, made a shot which produced a wider, if not deeper, sore than any within the power of powder and ball to pro-duce.

Now. Sir (as I always speak plainly), I will only add Now, Sir (as I always speak planny), I win only add that I know of nothing which has occurred between you and me which could authorize or justify a duel; and while I have never at any time had an insult offered me, nor an aggression attempted, I shall yet know how to meet and repel any that may be offered any gentleman who may presume upon

or otherwise.
Yours, respectfully, &c., B. H. HILL.
The Hon. A. H. STRPHERS.

DEATH OF BENJAMIN PLANDERS .- The sudden death of Mr. Benjamin Flanders, which was announced a day or two since in our columns, has not only re-moved an object of devoted attachment from a large circle of friends, but has deprived our mercantile community of a preminent and highly-respected member. Mr. Flanders was one of the many natives of N. π England who have filled an important place in the social and business relations of this city. He was born in Salisbury, Mass., and was a descendant of the genuine Puritan stock. On his removal to New-York, he engaged extensively in the business of sail-making, in which pursuit he won a high reputation for integrity, energy, and liberality. Of late years, he had been employed in successful mercantile operations, but never losing the simplicity, moderation, and adherence to principle, which were essential elements in his character. Although engaging with ardor in the duties of his calling, he cherished a deep interest in every en-terprise of practical benevolence. No wise movement for the melioration of the human condition escaped his notice, or failed to command his sympathy and cooperation. He even gave a hospitable attention to ideas and plans for the improvement of society which many looked down upon as visionary, and which found few advocates except among the most earnest and hopeful believers in the progress of humanity. His private charities were on the most generous scale. His whole life was a visible protest against selfishness and is justice. Retiring and modest in his disposition, his eminent virtues attracted the public eye, and will not so to be forgotten by his fellow-citizens. His deat's was unexpected and without warning. Apparently in the enjoyment of his usual health, he was seized with an apoplectic attack which terminated his existence in a moment. On the public announcement of his decease, the shipping in port displayed their flags at

The Board of Aldermen last evening adopted the report on the annual tax levy for 1857, including the \$55,600 expenses incurred by the Central Park Commission. The Board adhered to former action on the contract to build Tompkins Market, notwithstanding the veto of the Mayor.

A meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held last evening. The session was short and a few unimportant papers were disposed of.

STRANGE.—A young lady, daughter of the Hon. B. P. Bailey of Corning, died a few days since, from a singular accident. She was passing along the sidewalk when a man brushed past her, hitting her a sharp blow on the temple, probably with his elbow. The young lady fell, and the man went on without so much as looking back. Miss Bailey soon recovered sufficiently to walk home, and was apparently as well as usual for a day or two, but an attack of fever, said by the physicians to be consequent upon the blow, avpervened, and the patient died.

Churz Leaver of Uran. Without Parkets.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF UTAH .- William Edwards, esq. of this city, has been tendered the appointment of Chief Justice of Utah. Whether he will accept the appointment or not we are uninformed. (Deameirs Whig, Kooksk, L.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1864. From Our Corresponent.
As the Administration has but sixty days of existence remaining, and the House is to change

fant, the opportunity and the temptation for jobbug are particularly favorable. This fact needs not to be impressed upon the sharp-scented advenfurers, who now ewarm the lobbies like sultures after an advancing army. The instinct of preg brings them here. The last scheme of the many devised for plunder at this session, is one to refund the cuties on railroad iron within a given period. not yet determined, and to admit it free bereafter. Five per cent is named as the consideration for this enterprise, and it has already enlisted a formidable combination of interests from different midable combination of interests from different sections. The South forms the basis of the movement, but the Northwest and a portion of the East have signified something more than willingness to co-operate. An agency has been regularly opened, and it is said by these who claim to be well-inferenced, that the persuasive influence of the gentler sex has been added to the attractions of this operation. The inducement held out is sufficiently large to bring in all the ordinary appliances, and, per-

The Secretary of the Treasury did not deem it necessary to make any recommendation adverse to the existing policy on iron, and, if with his expe-rience of its practical working such a course was not regarded expedient, it can hardly claim much not regard-d expedient, it can hardly claim much merith on being arged by merely speculative parties and interests. The iron business is just beginning to assume stability, and for this nominal success, which would have been vastly enhanced if specific duties had been retained, it is indebted to the adventitions circumstance of an augmented demand for railroads in Europe. This increase has scemed to act as an indirect protection, and simply because the demand has equaled, and perhaps ex-ceeded the supply. The Tariff law itself has nothing to do with results which have been achieved in spite of its injurious policy. To free railroad iron because the Treasury is full and the revenue exbecause the Treasury is full and the revenue ex-ceeds the expenditure, would be to try a temporary ep pedient by which one of the greatest industrial interests would be struck down and a monopoly established in foreign hands at the direct cost of consumers in the United States. If it be let aloue to grow upon the improvements which ingeauity is daily introducing, a few years only will clapse be-fore the prices must fall under the effects of even this limited enceuragement. The great evil in our policy has been mstability, as applied to all manufacturing industry. Our law is change, and almost every change is from bad to worse. If the tariff nevery change is from bad to worse. If the tariff must be revised at all, let it be upon a comprehen-sive view of all the interests involved, and with fair opportunity for each to be represented. No narrow or selfish scheming should be tolerated in laying the foundation of a national system like this,

and any attempt to engraft such special objects upon it will be resisted to the bitter end.

The readers of this correspondence were long ago informed of all the points in the treaty which has just been published. The mere text does not, has just even profished. The therefore, increase their stock of information. Publicity will only add to an effect which has already been fore-hadowed in a probable opposition. Walker's friends have all along signified their intention er's friends have all along signified their intention to use this treaty as a means of coercing his recognition by the Administration; and that pur one will be pursued now more vigorously than ever. If he should fail, his defeat will be made the occasion of an unforgiving hostility. If he should succeed, an additional reason will be found for imposing the suggested condition. But, beside this qualified op position, another is threatened from that interest in the Senate which claims the special guardianin the Senate which claims the special guardiac-ship of the Monroe doctrine, and the expansion of American institutions. Ten Senators recorded themselves in the negative against the Clayton-Bulwer Convention, among whom was Mr. Doug-las, who registered himself three weeks after the vote. The reasons they assigned exist more strongly now, and they are likely to be urged with

additional carrestness. In some respects this new arrangement resembles the one which Mr. Webster and Mr. Crampton negotiated in 1852, and which Nicaragua at once unhesitatingly rejected. It does not include, however, one of the features of that arrangement, by which it was preposed to give the province of Guanacaste to Costa Rica. In other respects there are points of similarity. Walker's agents are prepared to acqueace whenever their object can be accomplished, and they have authority to complete the plished, and they have authority to complete the forms as so n as the Government here is disposed to renew recognition. But that event will not take place immediately, unless the fates should suddenly male upon the "regenerator of Central America

If Congress had taken the advice of THE 7 RIBUNE and put a "bold face" on the holidays, it would have been more creditable than the small dodge of meeting every third day, only to adjourn again; and it would have had she additional merit of giving those of us who are workers in reality, and not mere shams, the advantage of a respite, which was

Corr spot dence of The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1856.

I have heretofore referred to the inexhaustible subject of public plundering. I have alinded to a bill before the Conate to pay two and a half or three millions to the descendants of Revolutionary offpers-a claim got up after all the officers are dead, by men who want to get pay for their fathers' patriotism. The bill was run through the House at the last session, and only has to pass the ordeal of the Senate and the President. What chance there is of its being stopped at either point may be judged of by the fact that there are button-hole and official and social relations enough between its recipients and Senators to secure its passage by them, and that, according to Senator Stuart, the President and his brother will take \$16,000 out of the Treasury by the signing of the bill. Mr. Pierce has hitherto escaped the imputation of dealing unfairly by the Treasury. We shall see how he escapes the dilemma before him in this bill.

This measure belongs to a class. It is not only a bold grab at near three millions; it opens the way. and doubtless was intended to open the way, to probably ten millions more of pure stealings. In fact, it has already been suggested in the Senate and by newspaper correspondents that a bill covering other cases similar in principle aball be favorably considered, and ought to pass.

I will copy here what Mr. Toombs said of this

bill in debate last Tuesday. It was the closing remark of a long, earnest, and effective spench against it:

against it:

"Yen are called upon to pass this bill to reward the children of those who fought for their own liberties. It is a very poor pretext for an honorable man to come and tell the Government, "My ancestor fought for his own and the public liberty; he did not choose to be a slave to a foreign despotism; but with manliness, and honor, and patriotism, he fought during the war; now pay me for this: I want to be paid in hard deliars for the honor, and the clivalry, and patriotism of toy accestor." I tell you Mr. President, it is not good money—it is bad money—it is dishonorable to the memories of those who fought your battles to accept it."

Mr. Tooraba's sneech told powerfully upon the

Mr. Toomba's speech told powerfully upon the Senate, and if that body could be divested of the personal considerations connected with the bill, I have no doubt it would be overwhelmingly defeated. And now, by way of illustration of the manner in which this and kindred measures are crowded through Congress, I wish to make a short extract from Mr. Stuart's (of Michigan) speech upon the same bill on Tuesday. I wish room could be made for more of the speech, for it touches this whole subject of plundering the Treasury in a very point-

ed manner:
"Why, Mr. President, does anybody suppose that
this whale structure does not rest upon the efforts of
agents! Have they not been engaged on this subject
for years! Have not members of Congress been tant